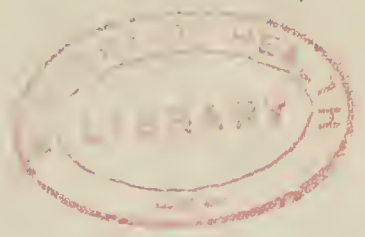


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WAREHAM AND PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE. B.A., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors

D. SMITH. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
Meat and Other Foods Certificate Royal Sanitary
Institute.
(Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector).

A.T. SELVEY. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
(Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector).

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments of
Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Swanage Urban
District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County
Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District for the year 1940. The report, as directed by the Ministry of Health, is much curtailed and limited to statistics and changes which have taken place during the year.

The health of the district has remained satisfactory during the year, although the notification rates for Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Pneumonia were higher than those for England and Wales. Details are given in the body of the report of a small outbreak of Enteritis at West Lulworth which was suspected as being due to food poisoning.

Changes in the health services during the year include, the provision of an ambulance service, and the extension of the scheme for immunisation of children against diphtheria.

The sewerage system for West Lulworth Village was completed and plans for a sewerage system for Bestwall Estate were submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officials of the Council for their co-operation in the work of the Public Health and Sanitary Services.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. 95,954 acres.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, Mid. 1940)
 (b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates) 15,840

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the rate book 4,370
 Rateable value £81,782
 Sum represented by a penny rate £339-16-5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births	)Legitimate	281	139	142	)Birth rate per 1,000	
	)Illegitimate	7	2	5	)estimated resident	
					)population	18.2
Still Births	)Legitimate	8	3	5	)Rate per 1,000 (live	
	)Illegitimate				)and still	
					)births)	27.0
Deaths		191	91	100	)Death rate per 1,000	
					)estimated average	
					)population	12.0

Area Comparability Factor - 0.99. Corrected Death Rate - 11.9.

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	290	143	147
Illegitimate	7	2	5

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total</u> <u>(live and still) births.</u>
No. 29. Puer: & post-abort:		
sepsis	1	3.3
No. 30. Other Puorperal		
causes	-	-
Total	1	3.3

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	12	7	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Doath rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	40.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	41.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimato live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
Doaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all agos)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1940.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths all Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.		
	Live Births	Still Births				Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	14.6	0.55	14.3	55.0	4.6	0.52	1.64	2.16
748 Smaller towns estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.7	0.55	12.8	54	4.4	Not available		
WAREHAM AND PURBECK	18.2	0.50	11.9	40.4	Nil	3.3	Nil	3.3

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

With the assistance of a contribution from the Borough of Wareham the Council purchased an ambulance in March 1940, and inaugurated an ambulance service to cover the Rural District and Wareham Borough. The service does not provide for the removal of cases of infectious disease. Sixty-one calls were answered up to 31st December, 1940.

There was no other change in the services provided in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no alterations to the sources of water supply to the area.

The following are particulars of samples of water taken during the year for bacteriological examination:-

Total No. of samples from Public Supplies and Wells	...	68
" " " " which gave satisfactory results	...	52
" " " " " " unsatisfactory results...		16
Total No. of samples from Private Supplies and Wells	...	18
" " " " which gave satisfactory results	...	5
" " " " " " unsatisfactory results...		13

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work on the construction of the sewerage system for West Lulworth Village was completed in June. Seventy per cent of the houses in the Village have been connected to the new sewer.

Bostwall Estate.

A recurring nuisance, due to the overflowing of cesspools receiving the sewage from 27 Bungalows at the Bestwall Estate, was reported to the Council, with a recommendation that a sewer should be constructed to take the sewage from this Estate and to discharge into the Wareham Borough Sewerage System.

The Council decided to submit proposals for the construction of a sewerage scheme for this Estate to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	719
No. of informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
" " notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
" " statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " " " complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Mosquito Control.

Similar steps were taken in the Studland area as in previous years for the control of the mosquito nuisance.

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	243
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	327
2. (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	-
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	-
3. No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	-
4. No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	74

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	74
--	-----	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	-
2. No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
a. By Owners	...	-
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	18
2. No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
a. By Owners	...	13
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	5
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	-
2. No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.		-

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV.) Overcrowding.

(a) 1. No. of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
2. No. of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	1
3. No. of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	-
(c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	-
2. No. of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	-
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	-

New Houses.

Total No. of New Houses erected during 1940	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. erected during 1940 with State Assistance:-						
a. By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	-
b. By Other Bodies or Persons	...	...	...	...	...	-
No. of houses owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	94
Approximate No. of working class houses in district	...	...	...	...	...	504

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

One hundred and twenty-seven farms were inspected during the year, four notices, all of which were complied with, were served on owners in respect of defects.

A total of 360 inspections were made.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licenses were in force at the end of the year:-

No. of Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	15
" " Pastourising Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " Accredited Milk Producers	...	...	...	...	...	68

Pasteurised Milk.

Regular visits were made to pasteurising and bottling establishments in the district.

Total samples taken of pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of samples which passed the phosphatase test	...	...	...	...	...	24
" " " " failed to pass the phosphatase test	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " " in which the bacteria per millilitre was less than 100,000	...	...	...	...	...	17
No. of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was more than 100,000	...	...	...	...	...	5
Plate Count was not carried out in three samples taken.						

Meat and Food Inspection.

No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	11.
---------------------------------	-----	-----

Slaughter of animals was discontinued at all slaughterhouses in the area at the end of January, except at the Co-operative Society's Slaughterhouse at Upton where the slaughtering of animals under the Ministry of Food is centralised for a large area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed 	-	2089	940	11552	-
Number inspected 	-	2089	940	11552	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned 	-	1	1	11	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned 	-	746	48	169	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis 	-	.35	.05	.015	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned 	-	7	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned 	-	168	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis 	-	.8	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned ... 8 tons 18 cwts.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever 	41	39	-
Diphtheria 	7	7	-
Puerperal Pyrexia 	7	-	1
Pneumonia 	56	47	5
Measles 	312	8	-
Whooping Cough 	11	1	-
Erysipelas 	5	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	18	18	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum 	1	1	-

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified (41) was less than that of the preceding year, but the notification rate is higher than that for England and Wales. There were no deaths from this disease.

Three hundred and twelve cases of measles were notified, the numbers being highest during the four weeks ended 25th August (141 cases). The illness was relatively mild and there were no fatal cases.

Food Poisoning.

A small outbreak of enteritis which occurred at West Lulworth was investigated. The illness was relatively mild and fortunately no deaths occurred. Its onset was sudden, with vomiting, fairly severe abdominal pains with prostration, green watery stools and in a few cases, blood in the stools.

It is difficult to estimate the numbers affected but I should say about 10 to 15 households. Somewhat less than half of those affected had medical attention. Unfortunately I did not become aware of this outbreak of illness until all those affected were convalescent. This fact hampered investigation, and early investigation is of primary importance in cases of suspected food poisoning.

Samples of blood were taken from six convalescents, in all cases the blood proved positive to *B. Aertrycke*, which is an organism responsible for food poisoning. Only in one case, however, was the test strong enough to be considered diagnostic of food poisoning, in the other five it was "suspicious".

Samples of faeces were also taken from the convalescents, all of these proved negative, except one, from which *B. Morgani* was isolated. This organism is of itself non-pathogenic but is often associated with food poisoning.

On investigation the source of infection appeared to be from cooked ham which was obtained from a shop in the village. All adult cases, except one, had eaten cooked ham from this shop on the day before the onset of the illness. The one exception was an isolated case at Worgret and no connection with the West Lulworth cases could be established. No sample of cooked ham was available for investigation. The onset of illness in all cases was about the same date. The outbreak was limited, no doubt, by the fact that the supply of contaminated food was limited. Inquiries suggested that the contamination was local.

I have no doubt that this was an outbreak of food poisoning, however the fact was not proven as investigation was too late.

Notification Rates per 100,000 Civilian Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns.	Wareham & Purbeck Rural District
Enteric.	0.07	0.10	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever. ...	0.32	0.29	1.13
Scarlet Fever. ...	1.63	1.57	2.58
Whooping Cough. ...	1.34	1.35	0.69
Diphtheria. ...	1.16	1.21	0.44
Erysipelas. ...	0.33	0.30	0.31
Smallpox. ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles. ...	10.24	9.99	19.69
Pneumonia. ...	1.20	1.00	3.53
Puerperal Pyrexia per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) ...	11.96	9.73	22.9

Diphthoria Prophylaxis.

The Council having considered the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2230 of the 7th December, 1940, decided to amend their scheme for immunisation of children against diphtheria as follows.

The scheme, which was limited to children under ten years, was extended to include all children of school age. Immunisation to be carried out at the school, with consent of the School Authorities, by local medical practitioners at the following scale of fees:-

- For 20 children or less treated per session 10/6d.
- " 20 to 40 children treated per session 21/-d.
- " over 40 children treated per session 31/6d.

Alum-precipitated toxoid is supplied free for this service by the Government through the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Dorchester.

The following are particulars of the number of children immunised during the year 1940:-

Number of children who at 31st December, 1940 had received a full course of immunisation ...

Course completed between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
52	252

Number of children who had been inoculated but had not completed full course of immunisation at 31st December, 1940. ...

Inoculation begun between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
44	213

Percentage of child population immunised.

Estimated population of children ...

Estimated percentage of child population who at date shown-

- (a) Had received complete course of immunisation ...
- (b) Had been inoculated but had not completed course ...

At 31st December, 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
1621	3528
3.20	7.14
2.71	6.03

Seven cases of diphtheria were notified during 1940, none of these cases had been given protective inoculations against diphtheria. There were no fatal cases.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act, 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1940:-

Age Periods					New Cases				Deaths			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
C	...	...	...	...			1					
1	...	...	...	...				
5	...	...	...	...				
10	...	...	...	...				
15	...	...	...	...		1				1		
20	...	...	...	...		2				1		
25	...	...	...	...		1						
35	...	...	...	...		1			1			
45	...	...	...	...	3	1	1		2	1		
55	...	...	...	...	1	2						
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	2				1			1
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	6	8	2	-	4	3	-	1

One case (male aged 59 years) who died from pulmonary tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1940:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
20	18	38	5	9	14	52

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health. (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	3	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	18	3	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	-	-	-
Total ...	21	3	-

2. Defects Found.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7):-				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective ...	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other Offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	-	-	-	-
Total ...	3	3	-	-